WRESTLING THEN & NOW

Evan Ginzburg-Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

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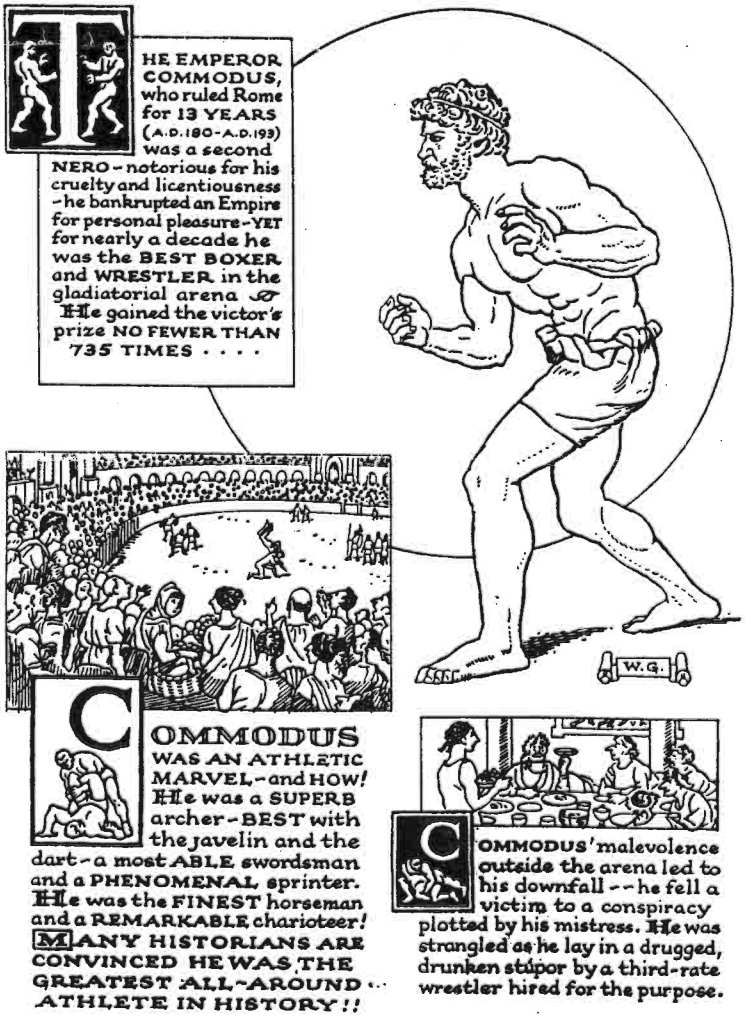
IN THE ROMAN ARENA...
WALTER GALLI
THE ROMANS, having conquered Greece in 146 B.C., took over the supervision of the Olympic Games...They revised the rules for all contests. In the matter of WRESTLING they merged their OWN method with the earlier Grecian form – thus producing the Graeco-Roman style – WHICH ENDURES TO THIS DAY IN EUROPE...
...a struggle to the death...
The Olympic Games continued long after the conquest of Greece. However, bitterness between the Greeks and the Romans increased with each Olympiad – until a bloody riot in 392 A.D. forced Emperor Theodosius of Rome to abolish the Games
WRESTLING enjoyed great popularity in Ancient Rome. The matches were fiercely contested. Frequently the combatants were slaves who, if they won, were given their freedom. Death was generally the loser's lot.

ROOTS OF WRESTLING!


THE EMPEROR COMMODUS, who ruled Rome for 13 YEARS (A.D.180-A.D.193) was a second NERO – notorious for his cruelty and licentiousness – he bankrupted an Empire for personal pleasure – YET for nearly a decade he was the BEST BOXER and WRESTLER in the gladiatorial arena. He gained the victor's prize NO FEWER THAN 735 TIMES....
W.G.
COMMODUS WAS AN ATHLETIC MARVEL – and HOW! He was a SUPERB archer – BEST with the javelin and the dart – a most ABLE swordsman and a PHENOMENAL sprinter. He was the FINEST horseman and a REMARKABLE charioteer! MANY HISTORIANS ARE CONVINCED HE WAS THE GREATEST ALL-AROUND ATHLETE IN HISTORY!!
COMMODUS' malevolence outside the arena led to his downfall – he fell a victim to a conspiracy plotted by his mistress. He was strangled as he lay in a drugged, drunken stupor by a third-rate wrestler hired for the purpose.

GINZBURG'S GAB

Welcome to another nostalgia-packed issue of WT&N! Ye faithful editor turns 33 on October 27, which isn't quite mid-life crisis time, but I do find it somewhat hard to fathom that some of my favorite wrestling memories date back 20 years! Seems like 90's wrestling may never recapture the magic, but I hope I can at least do my part to preserve the memories...

Some more sheets worth checking out: Piledriver (73 Humber Rd. Beeston, Notts ENG. NG9 2 ET), Obscure Publications & Video- (PO Box 1334, Milwaukee, WI 53201 $1), Mike Rodgers' Rings Around The Northewest, (613 NE 178th St. Portland Oregon 97230- only 50 cents!), New England Wrestling Scene- (Jody Boyns 521 Pine St. (Apt. 304) Manchester, NH 03104), The Wrestling News (Norman Keitzer Editor- $5 to Route One, Box 103, Vernon Center, MN 56090). Also, don't forget that WT&N columnist Ron Dobratz is selling his classic 1973 record book and photo album- (write to 11750 Graystone Circle Roscoe, Il. 61073) for info on this and his other great sheets from the 70's.

Recently met a new girlfriend. She's a psychologist. Tells me she "can't understand my wrestling thing." She basically broke a passion for wrestling down to A: "latent homsexuality" B: "Unresolved anger needing a release valve." I quickly rejected choice A (!), gave B some credence, and gave her a list of my own reasons. Anyway, a Jushin Liger tape sort of swung her over to my side eventually, proving that even sensitive new age women can be converted to the fold!

Sorry to hear about Sushi's demise, as well as Dan Reilly and Tom Burke's radio show. Jeff Mullins, Dan & Tom are three of the best people in rasslin' and I wish them all the best...

More serious jams caught live- Afro-pop giant Thomas Mapfumo with Les Tetes Brules (who wear some serious make-up that make the Kamala/Ultimate Warrior get-ups look like kid stuff!). Also R&B legend Bill Dogget and many others you possibly never heard of!

Since I've been getting so much material, I haven't had the space for a full letters page in a long time. As I have some particularly interesting mail this month, I thought I'd devote a whole page to it. Let me know how you feel about the letters column, and any other column in WT&N, and feel free to contribute.

Readers, please forgive me if I sometimes don't personally respond to your mail- sometimes the mail load is just overwhelming! PLEASE unnderstand, as I TRULY appreciate your support...

The 50 page/100 plug clip WT&N Annual- History of the Territories is only $7. Back issue packages (1-32) only $22.50.

Bernd Model wants to let my readers know about the European Wrestling Fan Association's "Wrestling-Basar." Those looking to get in contact with overseas fans, to trade tapes, correspond, etc. should write to WFA/Wrestling-Basar Postfach 10 06 26/D-6800 Mannheim 1 Germany. All ads are free...

That'll about do it. In parting, I'll quote Vic Stanley- "I miss wrestling"...

WRESTLING- THEN & NOW is published monthly and is copyright 1992 by Evan Ginzburg. Subscriptions are $15/yr or $7.50/6 months. Single sample issues are $1.25. All back issues are available at $1.25 each. Overseas add $1 per issue and make all payments in U.S. funds. Views expressed by guest columnists in WT&N may not necessarily be shared by the editor. All checks should be made out to Evan Ginzburg. All letters to WT&N may be printed unless writer expressly requests otherwise. WT&N: PO Box 471/Oakland Gardens Station/Flushing, NY 11364. Back issue packages are available- see ad this issue.

THE LISTENING POST
BY: EVAN GINZBURG

As editor of a nostalgia sheet, I'm sometimes taken to task for not sharing enough of my own memories. After twenty years and literally thousands of live matches, I have so many great images floating around in my head, that it would be virtually impossible to come up with anything bordering on a realistic "Top 10" list of matches. However, here's a stream of consciousness column that may not be "great writing", but reflects some unforgettable moments...

First match memories: The bloody Valiants doing their classic stagger vs. Dean Ho & Tony Garea. Arena SHAKING with excitement. Fred Blassie donning the tights to team with Nikolai Volkoff vs. Sammartino & master showman Jay Strongbow...Later that summer, legendary John Tolos loses to Bruno at MSG with backbreaker...Giant Baba flies in to face Monsoon in chop fest...1975: Bruno vs. Spiros Arion. My dad marvelling that all the cab stands were filled as Greek cabbies were there to see their hero Arion get his shot. Unbelievable heat as Arion wouldn't let Bruno back in the ring. When Bruno finally fought his way back, an EXPLOSION...1976: Bruno-Graham. NEVER have I felt more heat than during their return MSG match...A green Stan Hansen legitimately hurting Bruno at MSG with his lariet...Brody faces Bruno in cage match at Nassau Coliseum. A young Brody holds little credibility in WWWF as he and Hansen are considered a step down from recent challenges of Ladd/Graham/Koloff!...1977- Mil Mascaras settling down a riotous MSG crowd after an unpopular decision vs. Graham...Graham vs. Bruno return match with Monsoon as ref. Sizzling. Graham "quits" and Gorilla carries him back in ring. Crowd goes insane!...Dusty-SuperStar feud- crowd is DEAFENING...1978- Backlund goes 3 with Graham at MSG, winning and defending belt...1979: Pat Patterson goes 4 with Backlund. Patterson is unstoppable first 3 matches, chocking up wins in GREAT bouts. Finally loses in classic 27 min. steel cage match..LATE 70's/Early 80's: Snuka leaps off cage- misses Backlund...Snuka leaps off cage lands on Muraco. Unbelievable moments...Original Tiger Mask faces Dynamite Kid in CLASSIC bout- possibly "best" MSG ever offered. Tiger Mask returns with lesser opponents...Bruno faces protege Zybysko at Shea Stadium. Zybysko after pummeling, raise Bruno's hand in surprise gesture of sportsmanship. Remains heel...Harley Race faces Backlund in title vs. title match...Backlund goes to one hour draws with both Muraco & Valentine- both GREAT in their youth. Backlund's title held up in NY after controversial decision vs. Greg...Patterson- Slaughter in classic feud...Ditto Slaughter-Sheik...Adrian Adonis vs. Backlund at Nassau Coliseum- 28 minute masterpiece...Piper begins "new era" with classics vs. Snuka & Orndorff. Piper destroys Andre in a tag match. Andre carried out!...Piper/Orton begin unbelievable team facing Snuka/Tonga Kid- Snuka/JYD-Orndorff/Sammartino etc. Piper turns out to be possible greatest WWWF heel EVER, and is ultimately "turned" in horrendous booking move. Never regains same level of acclaim...Pro Wrestling USA organizes to oppose WWF. Great opportunity to see Nick Bockwinkle vs. Martell, Hansen win belt from Martell, etc. Flair comes in with classic match-ups vs. Race, Dusty, Steamboat etc...NWA makes move in East- landing in Philly & Baltimore. Both become hotbeds of wrestling. Midnight Express vs. Rock & Roll Express turn out to be nearly monthly classics- as good as tag team wrestling gets. Midnites vs. Road Warriors and Midnites vs. Fantastics also stunners as was there surprise victory vs. Arn/Tully before their WWF jump. Midnites may very well have been greatest tag team ever...Abdullah vs. Brody on Jersey shore indie- awesome ferocity...Lawler faces Henning on AWA spot show in Jersey city...WWF has old-timers battle-royale at Meadowlands with Thesz beating Pat O'Conner. Sadly, it doesn't draw...LATE 80's/EARLY 90's- Jumping Bomb Angels tour WWF. Great matches- later in tour, however, they slow down considerably...War Games stuns fans with its excitement and brutality...Goodhart delivers with Funk-Lawler, Abbie-Sheik, Winters-D.C. Drake, Cactus-Gilbert and other classics...Funk faces Flair throughout circuit in battle of the masters...I travel to Tijuana for Lucha Libre and experience culture shock at its finest. Tacos sold at seats, wrestlers landing at my feet, and a total lack of understanding as to lucha rules!...1992- Memphis proves worthy of its legendary status as Lawler/Jarrett vs. Moondogs turns out to arguably be best series of matches in the nation thus far this year...

There you have it. Twenty years of memories compressed into a column.

SOUTHERN STATES IN THE SIXTIES
BY DAVID WILLIAMSON

When I think back to wrestling's past, I guess my fondest memories are of the mid and late 60's. Besides watching the great action that promoter Nick Gulas brought to Chattanooga, I enjoyed reading about other southern areas in the great Wrestling Revue magazine, and a few other mags. The Revue was the best though.

Reading the stories, and looking at the photos and clippings made you feel like you knew the wrestlers, and all about the ongoing feuds in all the different areas. Quite a few wrestlers liked to stay in one area, but many others (especially heels) liked to roam from one region to another, to avoid getting stale.

In the mid and late 60's in my area of Tennessee, Kentucky, and central Alabama we saw Len Rossi, Tex Riley, Jackie and Sonny "Roughhouse" Fargo, Tojo Yamamoto, manager "Gentleman" Saul Weingeroff, Kurt and Karl Von Brauner, Johnny Walker, Ken Lucas, Don Carson, the masked Mighty Yankees (usually Frank Morrell and Eddie Sullivan, or Pepe Lopez), Ron Wright, Mario Milano, and others. They put out great action.

In nearby Georgia the fans there were treated to Buddy Colt, Big Bill Dromo, the Masked Assassins, Paul DeMarco, El Mongol, Paul "Butcher" and Stan Vachon, Ray Gunkel, Buddy Fuller, Dick Steinborn, Mario Galento, the Torres Bros. (Alberto, Enrique, And Ramon) the masked Pro (Doug Gilbert) and many more. Wrestling was HOT in the "Peach State"!

The Carolinas and Virginia fans got to witness the talents of the Missouri Mauler, Rip Hawk and Swede Hansen, George and Sandy Scott, Paul Jones, Nelson Royal, Tex McKenzie, Johnny Weaver, George Becker, Aldo Bogni and Bronco Lubich, the Masked Infernos, and manager Homer O'Dell and J.C. Dykes, among many others. Promoter Jim Crockett Sr. put on great shows.

Down in Florida, local fans and vacationers got a lot of excitement from Sam Steamboat, Eddie Graham, Louie Tillet, Sputnick and Rocket Monroe, Boris Malenko. Joe Scarpa, Jose Lothario, the Masked Medics, Bobby Shane, Les Welch, Hiro Matsuda and many more. A summer vacation in Fla. meant heat at the beach, and even more "heat" in the rings!

The Alabama gulf coast area, including the gulf area of Mississippi and panhandle of Fla., also saw its share of topnotch bouts. Some of the top names back then were "Hippie" Mike Boyette, The Fields Brothers (Don, Lee and Bobby), Dick Dunn, Greg Peterson, Chin Lee, The Hines Boys (Billy and Jimmy), Ronnie and Terry Garvin, Jack and Frank Dalton (Don Fargo and Chris Colt), Bull Ramos, Rip Tyler, and the "Cousins" (Dennis Hall, Roger Kirby, and Les Thatcher).

Of course, I'm skipping more areas, and many wrestlers, but, those mentioned put out lots of action in the mid and late 60's. Thinking of these guys bring back a lot of fond memories.

MY FIRST MATCH- THE COLOR OF SWEAT
BY: DAVID KRAMER, NYC

I remember my first wrestling show as though it was yesterday. It was 1961, the beginning of the Kennedy era; it was a time when you could be proud to be a Yankee fan. It was the year Roger Maris hit 61 home runs, and it was the year I saw Bobo Brazil battle "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers at Sunnyside Gardens. Although it is now a Wendy's restaurant, to me it will always be the romantic sweatbox where I saw many other wrestling matches in the years to come.

The details of the particular match are sketchy at best, but what I do remember is indelibly etched in my memory. Like losing my innocence, I will always recall this first match.

We were then living in a world of black & white, and I innocently expected Bobo and the Nature Boy to enter in a boring atmosphere of varying hues of grey: but the colors, the BRILLIANT colors that dazzled off the thick cigarette smoke seemed to explode. Bobo wore bright red trunks that exaggerated his sweaty, shiny jet black skin. Rogers wore light blue trunks which blended to his blond, almost golden hair. The sweat seemed to gleam off the lights. The cigarette and cigar smoke rose in a cone-like fashion that gave it an almost surreal look.

The body slams were thunderous; the small arena seemed to shake each time these gladiators hit the canvas. It was a far cry from the tinny hollow sound my television produced. The action was whirlwind. It could not compare to the matches I saw on my small tv screen on Saturday night. The crowd was deafening; nothing in the world could prepare me for the audience at a live show. It was real, it was exciting; it was unforgettable. Although this was a long time ago, the impression that left on a young boy will last a lifetime.

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA. MATMEN 2-10-67

Tonight's Program

MAIN EVENT: GRUDGE TAG MATCH
2 out of 3 falls

LES WELCH AND SAM STEAMBOAT vs. THE INFERNOS

TEXAS DEATH MATCH
MARIO GALENTO vs. J.C. DYKES

SPECIAL FEATURE
LOU THESZ vs. SPUTNIK MONROE

GIRLS MATCH
MARVA SCOTT vs. EMMA WRIGHT

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE
We reserve the right to change the order of events without notice

TAMPA, FLA. 1-24-67

Tonight's Program

MAIN EVENT: 6 Man Elimination Tag Match
No Time Limit — No Disqualifications!

The Infernos & J. C. Dykes vs. Les Welch, Buddy Fuller, Mario Galento

Sam Steamboat vs. Sputnik Monroe

Bobby & Lee Fields vs. Boris & Nicoli Volkoff

Louie Tillet vs. Don Serrano

MIDGETS
Lord Littlebrook vs. Little Evil

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE
We reserve the right to change the order of events without notice

NWA Western States Heritage Title

87/06/20	Barry Windham Defeats Black Bart in tournament final	Houston
88/01/24	Larry Zbyszko	Uniondale
89/01	TITLE ABANDONED Zbyszko jumps to the AWA	

AN INTERVIEW WITH BILL ANDERSON
BY: EVAN GINZBURG

How and when did you break into professional wrestling?

I had my first pro match on June 16, 1974. I wrestled a guy named Buddy Rose (not Playboy Buddy Rose), we wrestled to a 20 minute draw. My training began in 1973 when I was 17 years old. The great German wrestler and promoter Kurt Von Steiger spent a year training me, Bobby Jaggers (who went by the name Bobby Mayne back then) and Afa and Sika Anoui also known as the Wild Samoans.

Tell us about some of the territories you worked in and some of your memories.

I wrestled my first year in Arizona and New Mexico getting experience. In 1975, Chris Colt and I teamed up and traveled to Tenn. to wrestle for the Nick Gulas - Jerry Jerrett promotions. I was Bill Colt then. We spent six months there teaming up with Bill Dundee and Mike Boyette to battle Jackie, Don and Roughhouse Fargo, Jerry Lawler, Bob Armstrong, the late Tojo Yamamoto, the Wright Brothers and Eddie Marlin. After leaving that area I moved just outside of Chicago and wrestled for several small promotions in Illinois, Indiana, Wisc. and Missouri. In 1980, I wrestled for Dick The Bruiser's W.W.A. On the shows were some great names. Such as Bobo Brazil, Wilbur Snyder, Moose Cholak, Mike & Pat Kelly, Paul Christy and of course the legend himself, the late Dick The Bruiser. In 1982, I moved back to Arizona and wrestled for several promotions until I made the big move to Los Angeles to wrestle for the great Mike LeBell. It was through LeBell that I made my contacts with the W.W.F. that still exist today. In the last 10 years I lived in Calif. and wrestled for the W.W.F., A.W.A. and the N.W.A. and dozens of independent groups. I will go into more detail about my career in some of your questions presented here.

At one point you defeated Paul Orndorff on a WWF show. Was that the highlight of your career? If not, what was?

It was one of the many highlights of my career. I wrestled Orndorff on April 23, 1983 before 16,800 people at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. I pinned him with a sunset flip after about 14 minutes. He was very tough and in great condition. He was just passing through after a long tour of Japan. He was not yet known as "Mr. Wonderful", and was'nt employed by the W.W.F. until six months later. I have wrestled Paul twice since then, and he has beaten me both times. But, I will not forget that day in 1983!

You've wrestled in Mexico and Japan. Tell us about the stylistic differences. How do you adapt?

The major differences are that in Mexico, the wrestlers are very acrobatic and do many moves that make them look like gymnist doing floor exercises. In Japan, the wrestlers rely more on submission holds and strength moves. Both of these countries do have one thing in common, that is they try harder to give the fans a good match. I feel that in the U.S., many times the fans do not get their monies worth to attend shows. I feel that in Japan and Mexico, the wrestlers take more pride in their training and their matches. Of course this does not pertain to all U.S. wrestlers. Stamina and endurance are manditory in these countries. I have adapted due to necessity. This is why I am on my way to Japan for F.M.W. for my third tour, and I have wrestled in Mexico City, Guadalajara, Juarez, Nogales and Tijuana for nearly 10 years. A good wrestler will always find a way to adapt to his environment. It's part of what I teach in my pro wrestling school, that each opponent is different. No two will react quite the same way to a hold or maneuver. Plus, I must say that being a nice easy going guy has'nt hurt me any. I have seen good wrestlers go to Japan and Mexico and without thinking, insult the culture or the wrestling style of these people. Which usually results in them not being invited back!

Tell us about some of the legends you've wrestled with

Some of the men I've wrestled are Terry Taylor, Eddie Gilbert, Dick Murdoch, John Tolos, Mil Mascaras, Chavo, Eddie, Mando & Hector Guerrero, Big John Studd, Jake Roberts, Rocky Johnson, Jimmy Snuka, Demolition, Bob Orton, Don Muraco, Randy Savage, Bret Hart, Cyclone Negro, Andre The Giant, Hulk Hogan, Pat Patterson, Tony Garea and Sgt. Slaughter. Some of the great Japanese wrestlers I hAve faced are Atsushi Onita, Tarzan Goto, The Great Yatsu, Kengo Kimura and Tatsumi Fujinami. this is of course just a few I've wrestled. I have been on the same wrestling card as Bob Backland, Ivan Koloff, Ric Flair, Dusty Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Dr. Jerry Graham, Sting, The Ultimate Warrior, Superstar Billy Graham, Ray Stevens, Nick Bockwinkle and countless others over my 18 year career.

"MERCENARY" BILL ANDERSON IN ACTION

LOS ANGELES SPORTS ARENA —

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA — SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd, 1983
TONIGHT'S OFFICIAL LINE-UP

The Main Event — One Fall or 60 Minutes — For The
WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

BOB BACKLUND — 234 lbs., Princeton, Minnesota, U.S.A. — "Champion"
vs.
IVAN KOLOFF — 274 lbs., Moscow, Russia — "Challenger"

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

THE STRONGBOW BROTHERS CHIEF JAY AND JULES — 500 lbs., Pawhuska, Oklahoma — "Challengers"
vs.
THE WILD SAMOANS AFA & SIKA — 598 lbs., Samoan Islands — "Champions"

SPECIAL EVENTS

JIMMY "SUPERFLY" SNUKA — 250 lbs., Fiji Islanos
vs.
RAY "THE CRIPPLER" STEVENS — 238 lbs., San Francisco

"PLAYBOY" BUDDY ROSE — 256 lbs., Las Vegas, Nevada
vs.
MIL MASCARAS — 232 lbs., Mexico City

"SPECIAL DELIVERY" JONES — 237 lbs., Philadelphia, Pa.
vs.
"GOLDEN BOY" ADRIAN ADONIS — 250 lbs., New York City

PAT PATTERSON — 242 lbs., San Francisco
vs.
IRON MIKE SHARPE — 285 lbs., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

PAUL ORNDORFF — 237 lbs., Tampa, Florida
vs.
BILLY ANDERSON — 224 lbs., Los Angeles

ALEXIA SMIRNOFF — 255 lbs., Russia
vs.
STEVE PARDEE — 230 lbs., Portland, OR.

BLACK GORDMAN — 237 lbs., New Mexico
vs.
SALVATORE LOTHARIO — 243 lbs., Mexico

How did you become a wrestling teacher/trainer?

In 1985, my good friend Red Bastien started a wrestling school in Northridge, Calif. He asked me to be the trainer inside the ring for a group of six students. Red had long since retired from active wrestling, due to several injuries. We spent 2½ months training these guys, not completely realizing what an impact they would later have on the wrestling world. Four of these men were: Sting, The Ultimate Warrior, The Angel of Death and Strangler Steve DiSalve. After these guys completed training, Red wanted to stop training people. So I decided that I had the skills and qualifications to train on my own. Since that time I have trained "Cutie Pie" Louie Spicolli, Magnificent Mimi, The Beast, The Mercenaries, Riki Ataki, Jan Flame, Stephen & Thor DeLeon, Michele Starr, The Bad Girl, The Samoan Cannibal, David Gibson, Jason Peters, Max Pain, Mark Miller and several others!

You trained Sting and The Ultimate Warrior. How do you feel about their success?

I am quite proud of their wrestling accomplishments. Back a year or so ago, The Ultimate Warrior was the W.W.F. champion and Sting was the W.C.W. champion. I was happy to see that as I know they were happy to be where they were. They worked hard for those belts. Now Sting recently beat Lex Luger for the belt again. The Ultimate Warrior has disappeared from the wrestling scene. I'm sure he will be back. He is probably suffering from "burn out". the traveling in wrestling can be quite hard on a person. Not to mention the injuries. I believe it takes a special kind of person to stay in this great sport for many years!

Tell us about your wrestling school. How is it different from other such schools?

My wrestling school is located 60 miles east of Los Angeles in San Bernardino, Calif. I have the only professional wrestling training school in Southern California. I stress that I teach pro wrestling, by real pros. There is another school in the L.A. area that claims to be a pro wrestling school, when in reality they are just a playground for amateurs. They have a 140 LB guy training people for professional wrestling. To me this is a total rip off of people's hard earned money. I can't understand how someone can run a school and train people in this great sport without ever having a pro match. Having a few dollars in your pocket to open a school and watching lots and lots of t.v. does not make you a good instructor. I feel my 18 years as an active wrestler helps my qualifing to train men and women. I also have a lot of patience with people that are slower learners. In teaching in ring psychology, it only makes sense that you need to have those many years of matches to relate to. I caution all men and women to check into the background of your trainer before spending money on a school. There are many respected trainers in pro wrestling. Men such as Lou Thesz, Brad Rheingans, Woody Farmer, Gerri Monti, Ivan Koloff and of course myself have all turned out high quality wrestlers. If you want to be a pro make sure you are trained by a pro! I feel the major difference between my school and others is that when training is done, most trainers turn their back on the students. I continue helping my students years after completing training. I am constantly on the phone to promoters, booking my students in Mexico, Japan and the U.S. I frequently hear from students from other schools that say their teacher never helped them obtain matches. I personally help my students before I help myself obtain matches with the various promoters. I have even trained ring announcers and referees, due to the experience I have recieved in the W.W.F.

You recently wrestled against Onita in Japan. Tell us about that experience.

In Yanagawa Japan on Feb. 6th., myself, Horace Boulder (Hulk Hogan's nephew) and Big Tyton wrestled Atsushi Onita, The Shooter, and Sanbo Asako in a six man street fight match. It was a very bloody match. Onita used a chair on my head which caused a very deep cut on my head. Onita is the main star for Frontier Martial-Arts Wrestling. He is very intimidating inside the ring. He is very intense in everything he does in a match. He is also a great wrestler!

How do you feel about the WWF's utilization of your talents in recent years?

Over all I have been used o.k. by the W.W.F. I am not on an ego trip, therefore the W.W.F. hiring me as a ring announcer four years ago on the West coast has turned out to be a good move. I have learned and developed skills as an announcer that I did'nt know I had. Being an announcer has led to my gaining a Screen Actor's Guild card for being the announcer in TAG TEAM, the pilot t.v. show starring Jesse Ventura and Roddy Piper. This means that I now get paid union wages on any t.v. or movie work. I still wrestle for the W.W.F. on occasion. But, honestly, I have been happy ring announcing in front of as many as 17,000

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- *Professional Wrestler*
- *Trainer*
- *Actor-SAG*
- *Stuntman*

Bill Anderson's
School of Wrestling

P.O. Box 6721
San Bernardino
CA 92412

(714) 825-9750

CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 1983
SAN DIEGO SPORTS ARENA
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

TAG TEAM MATCH

ANDRE THE GIANT Grenoble, France ... 492 lbs. & JIMMY "SUPERFLY" SNUKA Fiji Islands ... 250 lbs.	vs	BIG JOHN STUDD Los Angeles, CA ... 385 lbs. & MAGNIFICENT MURACO Sunset Beach, HI ... 248 lbs.
TITO SANTANA Toluca, Mexico ... 241 lbs.	vs	IVAN KOLOFF Moscow, Russia ... 274 lbs.
"PLAYBOY" BUDDY ROSE Las Vegas, NV ... 256 lbs.	vs	TONY "MR. U.S.A." ATLAS Los Angeles, CA ... 248 lbs.
MR. FUJI Osaka, Japan ... 252 lbs.	vs	IVAN PUTSKI Poland ... 240 lbs.
PAT PATTERSON San Francisco, CA ... 242 lbs.	vs	RAY EVANS Denver, CO ... 238 lbs.
ADRIAN ADONIS New York City ... 250 lbs.	vs	BILLY ANDERSON Los Angeles, CA ... 224 lbs.
TONY ROCCO Milan, Italy ... 235 lbs.	vs	ALEXIA SMIRNOFF Moscow, Russia ... 255 lbs.
GREAT GOLIATH New Mexico ... 243 lbs.	vs	JERRY MONTI Salem, OR ... 248 lbs.

UPCOMING WT&N INTERVIEWS:

KILLER KOWALSKI
LOU PEREZ
IVAN KOLOFF
PEZ WHATLEY
VLADIMIR KOLOFF

people at the Los Angeles Sports Arena each month! The W.W.F. contacts me several times each year, for me to bring my best students to their t.v. tapings to see how good they are! Louie Spicolli is one of my top students. He will be wrestling full time for the W.W.F. very soon. So, my wrestling school is very respected by Vince McMahon and the W.W.F. After all these years as a wrestler, I have wanted to phase down the amount of matches I had each month. The W.W.F. has provided me with an alternative to constant active wrestling.

How do you feel about the preservation of wrestling history?

I feel very strongly about preserving wrestling history. It's newsletters like this that preserve our past in the sport. The first time I picked up a copy of WT&N I was impressed. It took me back to the early 70's when I first got involved in wrestling. I constantly remind newer wrestling fans that the Road Warriors and the Freebirds did not invent tag team wrestling and that the W.W.F. did have a champion before Hulk Hogan. I feel the Cauliflower Alley Club is trying to preserve wrestling history. I strongly reccommend wrestling fans to join this historic organization. You can write to them at 5221 Sierra Villa Drive, Los Angeles, Calif. 90041. They will send you all details on joining! I have been a member since 1985, and attend their yearly banquets in Studio City, Calif. This year Mad Dog & Butcher Vachon, Pepper Gomez, Lou Thesz and Buddy Rogers are just some that attended. Check it out!

You have some writing in the works for WT&N. Can you give us a hint as to the subject matter?

Yes, I do have plans on writing for WT&N. i will write about a a great show I attended in 1971 at the Olympic Auditorium, the main event was a 2 out of 3 fall match with Dory Funk Jr. defending the N.W.A. title against Peter Maivia. Also a great show in 1983 with a main event of Bob Backlund defending the W.W.F. title against Ivan Koloff, my match with Paul Orndorff was also on that show! I'm sure your readers will enjoy hearing about these two shows!

How do you feel about the changes in the business the past decade or so?

I have mixed emotions about this subject. As the trainer of a wrestling school, I realize that there are not as many places to send graduating students to, as there was ten years ago. I think the national exposure wrestling gets now is good to a point. The independent promoter today finds it very hard to draw in large crowds to his shows because most wrestling fans only recognize the W.W.F. and W.C.W. only. The smaller promotions need a lot of support, or they will die! Naturally the other obvious change in the last decade is steriods. When I started, a 220 lb. man was considered big, now at 250 lbs. is just average! With all of the recent negative press on steriods, maybe some of the smaller wrestlers will be appreciated for their talent!

What are your plans and goals for the future?

My plans are to continue in the direction I am presently headed. My wrestling school is doing quite well, and the active wrestling part of my career is also keeping very busy. At this time I am currently booking some talent for the F.M.W. promotion in Japan. My students will definitely be making frequent trips to Japan and Mexico, where I have strong contacts with promotions there. One of my students, the Samoan Cannibal, easily has the potential to be a major star within the next year or two. I hope to wrestle in Europe for Otto Wantz by early 1993. My main goal is to treat my students fairly and continue making friends in the wrestling business. I've always found, what goes around comes around, which I guess explains why myself and my school is doing well at this time!

Any final comments?

Yes, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my thoughts. Anyone wishing to write to me can do so at P.O. Box 6721, San Bernardino, Calif. 92412. I answer all letters. Keep up the great work Evan! I honestly can't wait each month for WT&N to come in the mail!

PROMOTER DON WILSON

PRESENTS

CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

JULY 19, 1974 Az.

MAIN EVENT

4 WAY STRAP MATCH

1 Hour - 2 out of 3 Falls

JODY ARNOLD
PAUL HARVEY
HONDO
vs. BILLY ANDERSO

SEMI MAIN EVENT

45 Minutes - 2 out of 3 Falls

THE WARLOCK
BUDDY ROSE
BENNY MENDEVI
vs. ARTURO ARTIAC

FIRST EVENT

AL SENICEROS vs. BIG IKE WILLIAM

OPENING BOUT

BUDDY ROSE vs. BILLY ANDERSO

program subject to change at any time.

NO THROWING

ANYTHING IN THE AUDITORIUM. THIS IS A CITY LAW AND VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION.

UPCOMING NEXT ISSUE:

Ron Dobratz' Chi. '82 Part 2
Vic Stanley
Don Gene Smith
Iron Mike Einhorn
Mike Lano
A. Nonymous
Evan Ginzburg's Listening Post

An Exclusive Interview
All our great artists!
Gary Will & Royal Duncan's Title Histories

Don't Miss It!!!

EARLY WRESTLING EXPOSES!

Guaranteed Entertainment

One evening in Manhattan's old Hippodrome twelve years ago, Ed ("Strangler") Lewis was trying to pin Lee Wykoff to the mat with some purely scientific holds. It was an honest wrestling match without any phony dramatics. It was also horribly dull to watch. At the end of two boring hours, the Hippodrome was nearly empty —and legitimate wrestling was dead.*

Last week, wrestling was alive, kicking and frankly show business. Are some of the matches "fixed"? Certainly, but not in the sense that some wise guys think.

Today's wrestlers are conscientious showmen who often allow the audience to pick the "hero" and the "villain" after the show begins. They engage in preliminary cuffing and hair-pulling while they "feel out the house" to see what happy ending is desired. One prominent promoter explained last week: "You never know beforehand when you're gonna see a lousy prizefight. In wrestling, we give you guaranteed entertainment."

Timing & Histrionics. In St. Louis, where he packs them to the rafters, Wild Bill Longson demonstrates an experienced actor's adroit timing. Wild Bill knows exactly when a kick aimed at his opponent's groin will bring down an avalanche of hearty boos. His histrionic skill earns him $1,500 an appearance. Barrel-chested Yvon Robert (rhymes with snow bear) has done so well at playing hero in his home town that he is now co-owner in a profitable sideline: a fancy Montreal nightclub called El Morocco. Gargantuan Primo Carnera has no particular gimmick, but he is netting more from wrestling (he says he makes $120,000 a year) than he ever did as world's heavyweight boxing champion.

The newest, slickest, most popular performer of them all is a man who calls himself Gorgeous George. In Hollywood, some bars and grills no longer feature the single word "Television." They put out signs reading: "Gorgeous George, Television, Here Tonight."

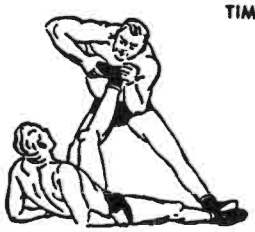
Catcalls & Curls. Five years ago, George Wagner was an ordinary wrestler who earned about $100 a match. Now he has an act. Last week, in Buffalo's Memorial Auditorium, 11,845 people waited impatiently for the preliminaries to end. At the cue, the amplifiers blared the *Entry of the Gladiators* and down the aisle strode James (George's valet) in morning coat, Kelly green vest and tie. He took a spray gun from a silver tray and began spraying the ring (George says that he just can't *stand* germs). The music stopped and a transcribed voice boomed excitedly: "Gorgeous George is on the way."

Gorgeous, small (5 ft. 9 in.) as wrestlers go, paraded down the aisle surrounded by policemen. His once-black hair is long, marcelled by a beauty parlor and bleached an improbable pale blond. By theatrical standards, his act is too broadly conceived and overplayed—but it goes well in a sports arena. Men jeer him with catcalls and wolf-whistles. When a woman fan heckles him, he retorts acidly: "I told you not to come down tonight, Mother."

With his mincing ways, his curls and his 88 fancy bathrobes, George is plainly a ring villain. His "secret weapon": bobby-pins (he calls them Georgie-pins) which he sometimes pulls from his golden hair and pretends to poke into his opponent's impervious thighs.

All this careful attention to detail brings Gorgeous George upwards of $70,000 a year. He doesn't seem to mind playing his swishy role. But he steps out of character whenever anybody asks nosey questions about his wife and two kids: "Let's leave the better half of my life outa this, yes?"

TIME, MAY 31, 1948



WRESTLING:

How It Is Done

Everyone knows that professional wrestling today is a fake and a farce, but few can tell you how its brutish-appearing deceits are arranged. On a television show ("Omnibus") last week, a firsthand fill-in was engagingly provided by Bert Shurtleff, former pro wrestler (as "Mad Murdock"), football player (as a center at Brown), and author (eight adventure books about dogs, two novels).

Take, now, the flying mare. The genuine flying mare disappeared from pro rings eighteen years ago, after a number of practitioners were injured and two died of broken necks. "We couldn't have that," Shurtleff explained. "If I break him, his friends break me, my friends break his friends, and pretty soon we have no union." A more gentle, less lethal maneuver, the flying chancery, was substituted—and "we *call* it the flying mare." About other holds, Shurtleff observed frankly:

▶Eye-gouging: "If I shoved my thumb into a human eye, it would pop out of the head like a grape out of its skin. You don't see them lying around on the mat—and nobody takes them home for souvenirs." (Actually, the gouger only presses his bent thumbs against his opponent's brow bones.)

▶The flying tackle: "A 5-year-old could step out of the way if he wanted to."

▶The airplane whirl: "Every time he [the victim] goes around, I go around, too. If he gets dizzy, why don't I get dizzy?"

The script for a pro wrestling match is brief but pointed. The promoter sends a telegram: "Moon tonight in 55 with a flying tackle blowoff." Decoded, Shurtleff said, it means that the fall guy will lose ("Moon tonight—that means I look at the moon, lying on my back") in 55 minutes after a flying tackle ("The blowoff is the finish, the climax, the final hold").

Do pro wrestlers ever throw away the script? "Not in public," said Shurtleff. But "the big boys used to get together in a padded cellar room in the house of Strangler Lewis in Wisconsin ... when they wanted to see who was *really* the best man." Was the action fast when it was on the level? It was "almost nonexistent. The boys are too good. In public they would have emptied a hall in ten minutes."

COMBAT SPORTS
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VIC STANLEY'S TOP TEN FINISHING HOLDS

10.
Finger in eye.

9.
Thumb in eye.

8.
Boot rake across eyes.

7.
Foreign object in eyes.

6. TIE
Ceremonial salt in eyes.
Red or green mist in eyes. (Japan only)

5.
Flash paper in eyes.

4.
Slap pop eardums.

3.
Remove pad from turnbuckle. Slam head 10x

2.
Distract ref. Hit opponant with chair.

1.
Distract ref. Hit opponant with garbage can.

*Although the death throes lasted for years. The official death certificate had already been issued by the New York State Athletic Commission when it ruled that wrestling was an exhibition rather than a contest.

RON DOBRATZ' HISTORY OF CHICAGO WRESTLING-- PART ONE '82

Chicago's first main event of 1982 was a battle royal won by Andre the Giant. Andre also defeated Jerry Blackwell on January 30, on the card's top supporting bout.

Three matches between Hulk Hogan and American Wrestling Association champion, Nick Bockwinkel, headlined the next three Amphitheatre shows. Bockwinkel lost all three matches, but the bouts on February 27 and April 24 were by disqualification, thus allowing him to retain his title. Hulk Hogan also won the March 20th match, but it was a "handicap" bout in which he wrestled both Bockwinkel and his manager, Bobby Heenan.

1982 was the first year since 1963, that Dick the Bruiser did not appear on the majority of International Amphitheatre cards. Bruiser's first match of 1982 did not occur until May 22, when Dick wrestled to a "no contest" with Ken Patera.

Two months passed by before Bob Luce promoted another International Amphitheatre show. The July 24th main event was between Bruiser and Bockwinkel. Before the exciting championship match ended, Bruiser had survived Nick's "Oriental Sleeper" and two stomach claws. Bruiser finally threw Bockwinkel out of the ring and continued his assault on the Amphitheatre floor. Dick undoubtedly would have won the bout via count-out,except Bobby Heenan grabbed Dick's foot as he was trying to re-enter the ring. While Bruiser roughed up the champion's manager, the referee disqualified both wrestlers.

The fans who watched Bockwinkel's struggle for survival with Bruiser on July 24, also had their first opportunity to watch Otto Wanz, the 350 pound Austrian Champion, who was touring the United States as an A.W.A. wrestler. Wanz, the 39-year old veteran, with 15 years of experience, pinned Sheik Adnan El Kaissey.

Wanz was on the losing side in his second Chicago appearance, as his partner, Baron Von Raschke was pinned by Bobby Duncum. Bobby Heenan was also busy managing a tag team he named "the Black and Blue Express". which consisted of Duncum and Ken Patera. They were a highly successful team in the AWA, and won three tag bouts in Chicago. Not only did they defeat the German team on August 21, they defeated Hulk Hogan & Tito Santana on January 30 (Duncum pinned Tito), and in a 6-man tag bout with manager Heenan, beat Raschke, Santana & Buck Zumhofe on February 27.

On August 29, Otto Wanz pinned Nick Bockwinkel after giving him a suplex, in front of 15,700 fans in the St. Paul Civic Center to become the American Wrestling Association world champion.

On September 11, both wrestlers appeared at the International Amphitheatre. Bockwinkel lost to Greg Gagne, while Wanz teamed with Bruiser & Ray Stevens to defeat Heenan, Patera & Duncum. Otto pinned Heenan.

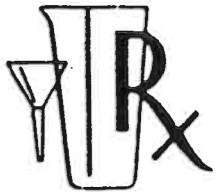
Chicagoans watched Bockwinkel regain the A.W.A. heavyweight belt in the October 9th Amphitheatre main event. Leo Nomellini, the former San Francisco 49'er defensive tackle, enshrined in the football hall-of-fame, served as the referee. Nomellini, who wrestled professionally and played college football with Verne Gagne, counted to three as Nick pinned Wanz's shoulders to the mat.

Ray Stevens received another opportunity to face Bobby Heenan on October 9. This time Stevens pinned his now despised former manager in a one-on-one confrontation.

Heenan lost twice on the September 11th card. Bobby not only lost in a six-man tag match, but in a singles bout to Jim Brunzell. Heenan lost the match on a count-out, refusing to stay in the ring after Brunzell mistreated him.

There were five chapters to Heenan's biggest Chicago feud of 1982, which he carried on with Buck (Rock-andRoll) Zumhofe. Heenan won round-one, when Buck was disqualified on January 30. Zumhofe was also on the losing side against Heenan's team in the February 27th six-man tag bout, but he rebounded to beat Bobby in a singles bout on April 24. They wrestled to a draw in another preliminary bout on May 22, and found themselves on opposing sides for the last time on August 21, when Bobby (with help from Jacques Goulet) pinned Buck (who was teamed with Brad Rheingans).

Goulet's tag team victory with Heenan, was the only time he was declared a winner in Chicago in 1982. He lost six times in singles competition. Jacques lost to Billy Robinson (February 27), and Spike Huber (March 20). Goulet managed to go to draws with Tito Santana (April 24), and Brad Rheingans (May 22). Heenan's interference cost Goulet a disqualificatio loss to Buck Zumhofe on July 24, and he was pinned by Rick Martel on September 11.



FOR WRESTLING THEN AND NOW

TO A NICER GUY, IT COULDN'T HAPPEN By Michael Lano

What happened to Debbie(Mrs. Buddy) Rogers, shouldn't happen to anyone. There is the possibility that the Florida hospital committed several acts of medical malpractise that may have caused the unnecessary death of Nature Boy Budro. Here's a recap: BR is signing an autograph for a female fan in a Lauderdale by the Sea grocery store, when he slips on a dairy product she had spilled. He breaks his elbow in three places and is taken to the hospital. Over 3 weeks later, we've lost our beloved Nature Boy.

Buddy had had a quadruple heart bypass about 4 years ago, and recovered in record time. As Georgiann discovered, he was featured in a 1987 Esquire piece when he recovered from a hip replacement operation again in record time. No doctor had ever told him or Debbie that he had clogged, atherosclerosed arteries that would be easily detectible and diagnosed. Yet that's what the autopsy that began June 27th attempts to say. BR had a reaction to an analgesic (pain masker) that he reportedly had an allergy to. The doctors also apparently said their "spinal to relieve the severe sciatica pain" could cause a major stroke if he had any atherosclerosis, but said he had none and proceeded with the spinal. Buddy suffered first a smaller stroke and then was released from the hospital too soon-no matter what type of patient-with no regard for his past bypass history according to medical experts I've spoken with. BR at least got to hear Johnny "Booby" Valentine say I love you for the first time the day before he lapsed into his fatal second stroke(reportedly only two). Debbie isn't sure she should proceed legally, but the saddest thing illustrated is that wrestlers have no medical, no retirement. Medicare will cover only about 60-70% of BR's hospital bills(which ethically should be waived) leaving her with a sizable chunk. Georgiann suggested we have people send $25 to Debbie's p.o. box, and I'll ship a tv tribute to Buddy, entitled:"To a Nicer Guy- Buddy Rogers is strutting in a Better Place." All of Buddy's available matches, plus his appearances on Canvas Cavity with JV; Buddy at Arezzi and CAC Conventions; and most all of BR's contemporaries talking about his passing. We'll have Deb's p.o. next issue. God Bless You, Herman Dutch Rhodes. We will always love and cherish you. And to the fans, a nicer guy never walked the Earth.

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IRON MIKE EINHORN: SWEETHEART OF THE CELL BLOCK
(The man who knows wrestling like the palm of his hand)

WT&N's new logo is going to be Fatty Arbuckle with his pockets hanging out.

If you renew your subscription, Evan will personally come to your house and give you a gentle kiss on your forehead.

The last I heard, The Jersey Devil was part of the government witness relocation program.

A panhandler came up to me and yelled, "You don't know what it is to be broke." "Yes, I do" I answered, "that's why I work!"

I knew my latest relationship was coming to an end when she served me a stuffed cabbage with a stilleto stuck in it. She used to tell me her orgasm gave her an upset stomach.

I've been watching a lot of the LPWA lately. Seeing their frenzied behinds makes me squirm with delight.

The last hotel I stayed in had a sign in the lobby that said: "Suicides Welcome." There was also a large bulls-eye in the courtyard.

Wherever Evan goes lately he's always surrounded by his parasitic entourage.

Coming soon in WT&N: "P.N. News: his hopes, his dreams, his fears." Talk about being in heaven! And not a minute too soon.

Not only is Hell a place of punishment, torment, and misery, but there is also a 6 hour time difference.

I'll see you next month for a cleaning.

LETTERS TO WT&N

It's 3:00 in the AM and I can't sleep so I'm going to try to write something and see if you can use it...

Their's alot of reasons for the demise of pro wrestling. One of them is the way the two major promotions run their house shows. They go on the road and run the same card each night with the same matches virtually hold for hold with the same finishes. It only takes a few months for a new fan to realize what's going on. They learn it from reading magazine results, going to repeat cards in nearby cities or even from watching TV matches that are the exact same matches that they viewed at their local arenas. The harm really isn't done by exposing the business, because noone with any sense believes the show is real, but the realization takes away any spontaneity and the fan realizes there's nothing special about what he's watching. The wrestlers worked the same match the night before and the night befor that, and they'll do it again tomorrow. It's not promoting worked contests, it's selling choreographed dances. In years past when two wrestlers met, say Blassie and The Destroyer, a fan was forced to go to the arena because these two meeting was special. They might never be matched together again. But even if they were, it would be a different match and a happening. Their's nothing special about Sting vs. Rude because if you don't go, you can always see the match in another city or more likely on TV when they'll have a finish that counts.

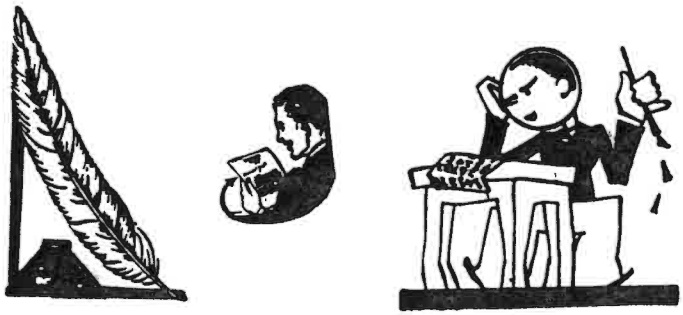
I'm not an insider or an expert, so I wonder if this is the only way the business can be run by our major US companies. Even with all the empty seats, they're selling out in Japan and Mexico and they don't repeat their cards. Each night is special and not to be missed. Maybe foreigners are the only wrestlers who remember the art of working a match without a rehearsal that lasts a month.

Well, that's my speech. I've seen what you've written about Mike Lano and I feel the same. He phones me alot, and even comped me last weekend at a card. But I'll tell you, I was sitting with all the big shots, Meltzer and company, and they were taking shots at him. Mike was taking pictures at ringside and one of the midgets fell on him and everyone popped.

I was watching all Japan women tonight. Nothing a Steiner ever did to a Japanese was as brutal as Bull Nakano's moonsault on Aja Kong's face. Those women are risking their spinal cords everytime they receive 4 stars.

Thanks...the sheet's great...

STEVE YOHE
ALHAMBRA, CA.



You're truly an incredible talent- your story on your friend's suicide (Issue #30), although sad was very touching. Most people wouldn't know how to tell that story. I haven't been able to get it out of my head for days.

Let's hope you have no more reason to have to write such a story again.

Next time go just for a tug of the heartstrings instead of ripping them out...

LINDA ADAMS
OMAHA, NE.

Please keep up the good work on WT&N. I may not like every feature in every issue, but there's always something special in every issue. Unpredictability is a definite strong point of your sheeet.

STEPHEN MEYERSON
BROOKLYN, NY

I keep up with wrestling in the sheets but don't watch it that much. Wrestlemania was my last live card and I told you what a disaster that was. I can't see the point of suffering through a horrid card for one or two decent matches. I miss the 1989 NWA.

Can you believe the Razor Ramone busines? Not only does the WWF not use a real Hispanic, but they have Scott Hall do the phoniest accent I've ever heard. Why can't the WWF get a decent Hispanic worker and make him a heel? I'm sure that there are lots of talented and underemployed Hispanic wrestlers who would jump at the chance. It's almost as if the WWF deliberately chooses the most offensive possible way to do something. I'm almost disgusted enough to write Vince a letter about it.

By the way, I know that a lot of male wrestling fans complain that the women in their lives dislike wrestling, but quite frankly in some ways it really is worse for women. You would not believe the reactions I get from straight men. It's either "Oh, wow, do you have any tatoos?", a look of incredible disgust as in what rock did she crawl out from under, or how could you be so stupid. Rarely do they ever admit to watching it.

BETSEY ANDERSON
BRIGHTON, MA.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: If my only reference point to wrestling was occasionally turning on the WWF TV tapings, and I saw voodoo, vomit, steroid mutants, horrible racial and sexual stereotypes and moronic interviews geared toward 8 year olds, I'd probably think wrestling was for morons too!- E.G.).

GED BRAIN TEASER!
(IT'S FOR REAL!)

There are 1,744 seats in the Bosco Arena. Tickets for $\frac{3}{8}$ of the seats have been sold for next week's wrestling matches. How many tickets have been sold for the wrestling matches?

(1) 564 (2) 624 (3) 654
(4) 1,090 (5) 1,200

Missing Link back again

Robertson hopes to see kids out of jail and on the farm

By ELEANOR TAIT
The Spectator

BURLINGTON — After 31 years as a professional wrestler, Dewey Robertson has hung up his trunks and returned home.

His career took him to eight countries and star status in parts of the United States but Mr. Robertson, 53, may have his toughest match ahead of him.

The Burlington resident is trying to convince the federal government that not all young people in conflict with the law need to be jailed. He hopes Canada can adopt a work-camp concept that would see some teenagers doing their time on a farm.

Robertson

"There has to be an alternative besides putting them in jail. Jail can be destructive to young people. They learn things inside from other prisoners and come out worse than when they went in," said Mr. Robertson.

"Kids today are missing something and I think it's responsibility. They could be rich or poor but someone has to connect and teach them responsibility. That's something they'd learn on the farm. I learned responsibility through sports activities," he explains.

It's an idea he's had in his shaved head for years but it became even more crucial during two years employment with Halton police as a special escort taking prisoners to and from court appearances.

He started talking the idea up over a year ago and feels he's making progress in convincing people on the merits of the farm concept.

He's hoping there might be a job — paying or otherwise — for him on the farm.

"I've had a lot of things given to me over the years. It's time I gave back," he says of his motivation.

Burlington Member of Parliament Bill Kempling was impressed with Mr. Robertson during a recent meeting and has vowed to help.

Born and raised in Hamilton, Byron James John Robertson was given the nickname Dewey while attending Dalewood public school. He doesn't recall how he got it, but it stayed with him through Westdale secondary and into the ring when he made his professional wrestling debut at 19.

Mr. Robertson won a number of American championships and in 1980 achieved his goal of becoming Canadian heavyweight champion. He wrestled as Troy Steel, the Crusader and lastly as the Missing Link, a non-speaking character known for his wild facial makeup and antics.

It was as Missing Link he got into the World Wrestling Federation for a couple of years in the mid-80s.

He had it all. But with all the successes, he stresses there were also failures.

Steroids, amphetamines, alcohol, marijuana and cocaine became part of Mr. Robertson's routine.

He sought help for his alcohol and substance abuse at Toronto's Donwood Institute and continues on the road to recovery.

Former wrestler grapples with selecting winners

Horse racing
Bob Fortus

Allen LaCombe, the late Fair Grounds publicist, used to say horse racing and wrestling were the only two honest sports left.

Buck Robley, a former wrestler who has spent the past several weeks at the Fair Grounds, wouldn't go quite that far.

"I do say there might be a little show in professional wrestling," Robley said. "Both of them have good and bad publicity. I think it's for every person to decide for themselves."

Robley enjoys grappling with horses' past performances in an effort to uncover the winner.

"I think it's a mind-boggling game," he said. "Sometimes I think you can throw the form away and pick numbers."

Racing first caught Robley's attention when he was wrestling in North Carolina years ago. He would make trips to Maryland to see the horses.

In 1972, he got into the business as an owner; currently, he owns a share in one horse who recently left the Fair Grounds for Sportsman's Park.

"Always had the dogs," he said. "Never had a great horse."

He had much greater success in his 22 years in the ring. Known as "Yellow Belly," Robley would wear a T-shirt that said, "Nobody calls me yellow," and delighted in egging on the crowd. "I was the first wrestler to have a T-Shirt," he said.

In 1984, he quit and began promoting, once organizing a show that drew 35,000 to the Superdome. Now Robley is putting together weekly shows for the New Orleans area, the first scheduled for March 16 in St. Bernard.

"My goal is to bring wrestling back like it used to be in the area," he said. It's entertainment, which is how he views racing.

Robley spends his racing funds at the windows in small units, usually $10. "Twenty dollars is a big bet for me," he said. And he bets to win, seldom backing up his plays.

He knows most of the trainers and jockeys, and said he hears tips from time to time on his many visits to the backstretch. "Yeah, but they don't win," he said.

"I think the best thing to do is your own handicapping, make your own judgments, use your instincts and never let the (tote) board take you off a horse," he said. "Never let the board influence you. . . . The board is nothing but the public betting against themselves."

His grip on handicapping apparently is as solid as his sleeper hold.

"Better change your tune, Buster—I happen to know her boy friend is the new wrestling champion!"